institutions and 16.2% in public institutions. The same survey also indicates that in urban areas 14.7% of the deliveries were conducted by caesarian section while in rural areas this was 4.9% giving a total of 7.1% caesarian section deliveries at the national level. The corresponding figures during the NHFS - I Survey (1992-93) were 5.7% urban, 1.6% rural and 2.5 being total deliveries by caesarian section.

Endosulfan level in the human body

1288. DR. M.A.M RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) has revealed that soil, water and human bodies contain Endosulfan in excess of the permissible limit in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to a study report of July, 2002, submitted by National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad which carried out an epidemiological study in Padre village of Kasargod district of Kerala, a possible link was found between the higher prevalence of various ailments including Neuro behavioral disorders, congenital malformation in female subjects and abnormalities related to male re-productive system in the Padre village and the aerial spray of Endosulfan. However, Dubey Committee set up by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, in its report of July, 2003, has concluded that there is no link established between use of Endosulfan in Plantation Corporation of Kerala (PCK) plantations and health problems reported in Padre village of Kasargod Distt. of Kerala. The Committee *inter-alia* recommended to conduct comprehensive, well designed and detailed health and epidemiological study in entire cashew plantation area of Kerala to ascertain the incidence of disease in Padre *vis-a-vis* Kerala State averages and also in the event of incidence of unusual health problem to determine probable factors responsible for alleged health problems. It also recommended that use of Endosulfan be continued as per provisions of

Insecticides Act, 1968 but aerial spraying of Endosulfan may not be allowed in any situation including in PCK plantations to ensure full safety.

Further, as per Government of Kerala, an expert committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. Sivaraman, Addl. Director of Health Services of Government of Kerala in its report submitted in August, 2003, has stated that it could not find any other reason other than Endosulfan spraying to explain the reported health hazard. The State Government temporarily banned aerial spraying of Endosulfan and declared pesticide holiday for five years. The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in its order dated 12.8.2002 in O.P. No. 16300/01 has stayed the use of Endosulfan in the State. The State Government is providing free treatment to those, suffering from the reported problems and providing free medicine to the poor patients.

Status of SCs and STs in AIIMS

1289. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of reservation given for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students in All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; and

(b) what is the status of reservation of Other Backward Classes in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) AIIMS is providing reservation of 15% and 7½% to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates respectively in admission to various courses except super speciality courses. AIIMS will also provide reservation to Other Backward Classes from the year 2007-08 onwards, in accordance with the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

Prohibition of non-iodised salt

1290. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-iodised and inferior quality salts are being sold in the markets openly;